

**Celebrating
Mid-50 Rivers
Years**

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Mid-Rivers

TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

P.O. Box 280 • 904 C Avenue
Circle, Montana 59215
(406) 485-3301 • Fax: (406) 485-2924
www.midrivers.com

September 11, 2002

CERTIFIED MAIL: 7099 3220 0006 6038 1859

Irene Flannery

Vice President – High Cost and Low Income Division

Universal Service Administrative Company

2120 L Street NW, Suite 600

Washington DC 20037

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

SEP 17 2002

FCC - MAILROOM

CERTIFIED MAIL: 7099 3220 0006 6038 1866

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary

Federal Communications Commission

445 12TH Street SW

Washington DC 20554

RE: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
CC Docket No. 96-45
Supplement - Section 54.809 Carrier Certification

Pursuant to Section 54.809 of the Commission's Rules, Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Mid-Rivers"), a competitive local exchange carrier certified by the Montana Public Service Commission as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the Glendive, Miles City and Sidney, Montana wire centers (please see Order attached), hereby certifies that all interstate access universal service support will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. Mid-Rivers previously filed a Section 54.809 certification with regard to its' Fairview, Terry and Wibaux wire centers in a letter dated June 10, 2002.

For your convenience, attached is a copy of Mid-Rivers line count information for all wire centers, which is concurrently filed with USAC pursuant to Section 54.802 (a) of the Commission's Rules.

Please contact me should you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,



Gerry Anderson
General Manager

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

Attachments

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September 11, 2002

CERTIFIED MAIL: 7099 3220 0006 6038 1842

Rich Rhyner
Universal Service Administrative Company
80 South Jefferson Road
Whippany NJ 07981

RE: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Quarterly Report of Line Count Data

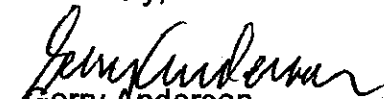
Mr. Rhyner:

Pursuant to Section 54.802(a) of the Commission's Rules, Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Mid-Rivers"), a competitive local exchange carrier certified by the Montana Public Service Commission as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the Fairview, Glendive, Miles City, Sidney, Terry and Wibaux, Montana wire centers, hereby submits its quarterly submission of line count data.

As of June 30, 2002, Mid-Rivers served 394 residential/single line business lines and 41 multi-line business lines in the Fairview, Montana wire center, and 2,380 residential/single line business lines and 535 multi-line business lines in the Glendive, Montana wire center, and 286 residential/single line business lines and 178 multi-line business lines in the Miles City, Montana wire center, and 2,241 residential/single-line business lines and 603 multi-line business lines in the Sidney, Montana wire center, and 350 residential/single line business lines and 84 multi-line business lines in the Terry, Montana wire center, and 301 residential/single line business lines and 63 multi-line business lines in the Wibaux, Montana wire center. All lines reported herein are provided entirely with Mid-Rivers own facilities. No reported lines are provided through either purchase of unbundled network elements or wholesale services from Qwest, the incumbent local exchange carrier serving the same territory. To the best of our knowledge, no UNE zones have been established.

Please contact me should you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,


Gerry Anderson
General Manager

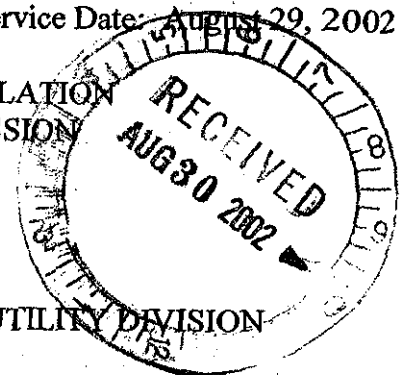
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SEP 17 2002

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Service Date: August 29, 2002

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA



IN THE MATTER OF MID-RIVERS TELEPHONE
COOPERATIVE, INC., Petition for Designation as
an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the
Glendive, Montana, Exchange

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UTILITY DIVISION

DOCKET NO. D2002.6.71
ORDER NO. 6438

IN THE MATTER OF MID-RIVERS TELEPHONE
COOPERATIVE, INC., Petition for Designation as
an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the
Miles City, Montana, Exchange

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)

UTILITY DIVISION

DOCKET NO. D2002.6.72
ORDER NO. 6439

IN THE MATTER OF MID-RIVERS TELEPHONE
COOPERATIVE, INC., Petition for Designation as
an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the
Sidney, Montana, Exchange

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UTILITY DIVISION

DOCKET NO. D2002.6.73
ORDER NO. 6440

FINAL ORDER

1. On June 19, 2002, Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Mid-Rivers), filed before the Montana Public Service Commission (PSC) applications for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) in Qwest Communications, Inc.'s, Glendive, Miles City, and Sidney, Montana, exchanges. On July 11, 2002, the PSC issued public notice of Mid-River's requests. Intervention and comment were due by August 7, 2002. No person has requested intervention or filed comments.

2. Subject to the terms of this final order, the PSC determines that Mid-Rivers should be designated an ETC and thereby be eligible for universal service funds for service in the Glendive, Miles City, and Sidney exchanges. Mid-Rivers' applications are consolidated for final order purposes.

3. In accordance with § 69-3-840, MCA, § 214(e) Telecommunications Act of 1934, as amended, and 47 C.F.R. § 54, Mid-Rivers offers the covered services in the service areas through either facilities-based operations or a combination of facilities-based and resale and advertises the availability of services through generally distributed media and designation is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. The covered services include voice-grade access to the public switched network with some usage; dual-tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent; single-party service or its functional equivalent; access to emergency services including 911 or enhanced 911; access to operator services, interexchange service, and directory assistance; and toll limitation.

4. Mid-Rivers provides all of these services to current customers and will continue to offer these services to all customers in the Glendive, Miles City, and Sidney exchanges after designation as an ETC. Mid-Rivers has made investments in facilities to serve the communities. Mid-Rivers accepts obligations as an ETC regarding construction of new facilities according to customer selection of carriers and subject to the selected carrier's construction policies or tariffs. Mid-Rivers states that it may provide service to some customers through resale. Mid-Rivers has provided examples of its local newspaper advertising for its services. Mid-Rivers has made a commitment to serve customers requesting service within the service areas if ETC status is granted. Mid-Rivers is already serving customers within the exchanges and is an established operation with experience in service areas in this state. Mid-Rivers has demonstrated a commitment in providing service to customers by establishing regional offices and personnel. Mid-Rivers meets, at the least, the minimum conditions established for ETCs by state and federal law.

5. Mid-Rivers shall provide the PSC with a short report on its advertising activities (including targeting low income customers for lifeline and link up) in the Glendive, Miles City, and Sidney service areas at the end of its first year of ETC designation. The report must include copies of advertising with a description of how and when the advertising was distributed. At that

DOCKET NO. D2002.6.71, ORDER NO. 6438
DOCKET NO. D2002.6.72, ORDER NO. 6439
DOCKET NO. D2002.6.73, ORDER NO. 6440

3

time the PSC will determine if any additional reporting, annually or otherwise, would be beneficial. Mid-Rivers must also comply with all applicable federal requirements imposed on ETCs regarding telecommunications lifeline and link up programs, including publicizing of the availability of lifeline and link up. *See e.g., 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.405 and 54.411.*

6. ETC certification is an annual requirement. The PSC requests that applications to the PSC for annual certification to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) be filed well in advance (e.g., 30 days) of the certification deadline (currently October 1, each year). FCC universal service orders anticipate that states will take appropriate steps to account for the receipt of high cost funds and ensure that support is being applied consistent with law. States also have flexibility in deciding how ETC-designated carriers use the support provided. The PSC has initiated a proceeding, the purpose of which may include a determination of how ETCs will apply high cost universal service funds attributable to the Montana jurisdiction.

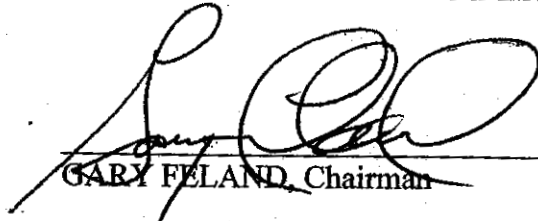
7. The application of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc., for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier in the Glendive, Miles City, and Sidney, Montana, exchanges is hereby approved.

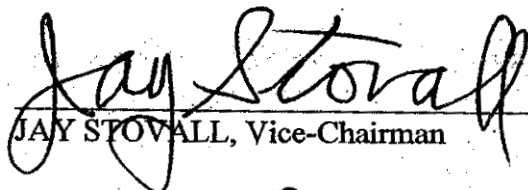
Done and dated this 27th day of August, 2002, by a vote of 5-0.

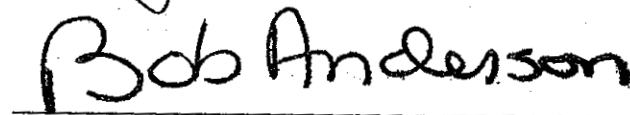
DOCKET NO. D2002.6.71, ORDER NO. 6438
DOCKET NO. D2002.6.72, ORDER NO. 6439
DOCKET NO. D2002.6.73, ORDER NO. 6440


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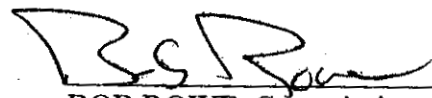
BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



GARY FELAND, Chairman


JAY STOVALL, Vice-Chairman


BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner


MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner


BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rhonda Simmons
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request the Commission to reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See 38.2.4806, ARM.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of **FINAL ORDER 6438** issued in D2002.6.71 in the matter of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative - Petition for Designation as Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the Glendive, Montana Exchange has today been served on all parties listed on the Commission's most recent service list, created 6/19/02, by mailing a copy thereof to each party by first class mail, postage prepaid.

Date: August 29, 2002

Katie Maki
For The Commission

DOCKET D2002.6.71

SERVICE
LIST

Steve Vick
Public Service Commission
1701 Prospect Ave
PO Box 202601
Helena, MT 59620-2601

Robert Nelson
Montana Consumer Counsel
616 Helena Ave, 3rd Floor
PO Box 201703
Helena, MT 59620-1703

Gerry Anderson
Mid-Rivers Telephone Co-op
PO Box 280
Circle MT 59215-0280

Thomas E Smith
Moulton Bellingham Longo &
Mather PC
27 N 27th St Ste 1900
PO Box 2559
Billings MT 59103-2559